**Christ the Saviour is Born!**

No one knows for sure just exactly when our Lord Jesus Christ was born in the City of David. Perhaps it was sometime from late 3 BC to late 2 BC. Many of the customs which so strongly associate with Christmas celebration have, in and of themselves, little to do with what really happened 2000 or so years ago. Culture, tradition and popular lore have developed so that over the years it is often difficult to pick out a truly Christian message from “Christmas” festivities and celebrations.

One occasionally reads literature from cultic groups that not only call attention to that fact, but also that many of our customs are of pagan origin. It is hard to argue with that.

But at the same time, it must be said that we ought to celebrate the coming of God’s Son into the world, and it may just as well be December 25, as any other date. And even though many of our decorations could well be used to celebrate something else, we use them to proclaim to the world that something very special took place two millennia ago that affects our lives very deeply right now. The Son of God was born of a humble virgin and laid to rest in a manger – that is, an animal feed box.

Now the Bible says nothing about “ox and ass” or any other animals for that matter “bowing before Him.” Nor is there any evidence that the wise men were three in number, or that they were kings. It seems unlikely that our Lord was born on December 25. Many Bible scholars have conjectured that Jesus was born in the spring when shepherds are usually watching their flocks because it is lambing season. These are additions and speculations that may or may not have been. But the fanciful words of our Christmas carols, even though not always historically accurate, proclaim this great truth: Jesus, the Son of Mary, is “very God of very God.” The angels of God, people, kings and even the animals and all of creation owe Him homage and obedience.

He is the One who humbles Himself to accomplish with great might what none of us could. In His humility is the power of God to destroy the power of the Evil One, and to win for us everlasting salvation. In His suffering and death, comes the victory that wins us life and eternal joy. The Child whose humble throne was once an animal feed box, now sits at the right hand of the Father.

Yes, the trappings, the culture, the lore often have become more important than the Gospel story itself, and that is truly sad. It is sometimes hard to find Christ in all the clutter.

But on the other side, get out your decorations and proclaim to the world that something important has happened. Our Saviour has come to dwell among us, to bring us salvation. There is no reason to be quiet about it. Christ, the Saviour, is born!